

It was as late as the Eleventh Century, when the Commemoration of all the faithful departed on the 2nd of November, was publicly approved and introduced into the universal Church. Long before that period, however, individual Churches and individual Bishops and Abbots had set aside a special day for the Commemoration of All Souls.

St. Peter Damian relates to us in his life of St. Odilo, Abbot of Clugny, how this great Saint, about the year 1000 ordered an All Souls' Day to be celebrated in all the monasteries of his extensive order on the 2nd day of November, in a similar manner as it is celebrated to-day. He narrates the particular occurrence, which occasioned this order of St. Odilo: "A pious religious, on his return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, was cast upon an unknown island by a storm. On this island he met a holy Hermit, who informed him, that in the vicinity of his cell he frequently heard wonderful and terrible cries of evil spirits, lamenting, that the prayers and good works of the faithful for the departed were so disturbing to them, for they released or greatly relieved the Souls, who had been given over to them for torture. They expressed a particular hatred against the Abbot Odilo of Clugny and his monks for their extraordinary zeal in behalf of these Souls."

Upon his return, the pious religious, at the desire of the Holy Hermit communicated this information to Abbot Odilo, who was thereby still more inflamed with this devotion, and, hence, instituted the 2nd of November for an annual Commemoration of the faithful departed. It was probably at the instance of this same Abbot, that Pope John XIX introduced this annual Commemoration into the universal Church about the year 1030. Soon after this time we learn from historians that this day was celebrated in various dioceses, as *e. g.* in Liege, where it was observed as a day of obligation; in England where the council of Oxford in the year 1222 commanded this day to be celebrated as a feast of second class.

Yet though the All Souls' Day of St. Odilo may have given occasion to the universal celebration of that day, it was